

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 080818  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY PM:PACLAPP:EUR/SOV:GMATTHEWS:GP  
APPROVED BY PM:LHGELB, DIRECTOR  
S/S SGOLDSMITH  
NSC:COLONEL DENEND  
ACDA/WEC:DR. BLECHMAN

-----029288 292209Z /41

P 292057Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080818

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

SUMMARY: -- DEPARTMENT IS IN PROCESS OF DRAWING UP  
AGENDA FOR COMING TALKS IN HELSINKI. WOULD APPRECIATE  
EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF WHAT WE MIGHT EXPECT FROM THE SOVIET  
SIDE. TO FACILITATE APPROACH BY AMBASSADOR TO MENDELEVICH  
TO PROBE SOVIET PLANNING FOR MEETING, WE HAVE PREPARED A  
MESSAGE FROM GELB TO MENDELEVICH FOR AMBASSADOR TO DELIVER.  
END SUMMARY.

1. BEFORE WE APPROACH SOVIETS THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY HERE  
ON PROPOSED AGENDA FOR HELSINKI MEETING, WE WOULD  
APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON THE LINE SOVIETS ARE LIKELY  
TO TAKE. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD POSE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS  
TO EMBASSY: (EMBASSY RESPONSE NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO THESE).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 080818

----- ARE SOVIETS LIKELY TO RESPOND IN DETAIL TO OUR  
GUIDELINES SUGGESTED IN DECEMBER MEETING?

----- OR WILL THEY TAKE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TACK?

----- DO THEY INTEND TO LEAD OFF WITH THEIR OWN PRESENTA-

TION? PERHAPS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS?

----- SHOULD WE BE ANTICIPATING AN ELABORATION OR REITERATION OF THE LEGALISTIC QUESTIONS THEY RAISED IN DECEMBER MEETING? (OR WAS THIS ONLY PECULIAR TO KHLESTOV?)

----- WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIETS' NAMING MENDELEVICH TO HEAD DELEGATION? SOVIET EXPECTATION OF EXTENDED DIALOGUE?

----- SHOULD WE EXPECT SOVIETS TO TALK ABOUT THEIR PLANS FOR DEALING WITH CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS AT SSOD? (WE ARE PREPARING TO DISCUSS THIS).

----- WHAT POLEMICS CAN WE EXPECT, ESPECIALLY ANY AIMED AT US ACTIVITIES IN PARTICULAR REGIONS?

----- ARE THEY LIKELY TO LINK CAT TO BROADER DISARMAMENT PICTURE, E.G. CRITICISM OF US FOR LACK OF DISARMAMENT ACTIONS?

2. WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM GELB TO MENDELEVICH.  
AMBASSADOR SHOULD DELIVER THIS TO MENDELEVICH, REQUESTING SOVIET ANSWER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 080818

BEGIN TEXT: -- "I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF YOUR DESIGNATION AS THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO OUR FORTHCOMING SECOND ROUND OF TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS. THE US SIDE IS APPROACHING THESE TALKS SERIOUSLY, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE IN HELSINKI TO DEVELOP APPROACHES AND ELABORATE SOME OF THE ASPECTS OF THE ISSUES WHICH I DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR KHLESTOV IN WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER. IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD WELCOME YOUR PRELIMINARY COMMENTS IN ADVANCE OF OUR MEETING IN HELSINKI ON ANY MATTERS WHICH YOU BELIEVE WILL ASSIST IN MAKING THIS SESSION AS PRODUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE. YOUR DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR TOON WILL BE USEFUL IN THIS RESPECT, ESPECIALLY SINCE ONE OF HIS EMBASSY OFFICERS WILL BE JOINING THE US DELEGATION TO THE HELSINKI TALKS. AGAIN, AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN HELSINKI ON MAY 4TH. END TEXT.

3. FYI -- WE HAVE HANDED THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE A PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING FORTHCOMING MEETING, BUT HAVE NOT HEARD BACK FROM THEM YET. THIS, THE AGENDA, AND THE ABOVE MESSAGE ARE THE ONLY MATERIALS WE ANTICIPATE

PASSING PRIOR TO THE HELSINKI MEETING. WILL ADVISE  
EMBASSY WHEN WE HEAR ABOUT PRESS RELEASE AND WHEN WE  
HAVE DRAFTED AN AGENDA. COOPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), ARMS SHIPMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE080818  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** PACLAPP:EUR/SOV:GMATTHEWS:GP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780136-1095  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780312/aaaaajrr.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** ffbad1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3155376  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US-SOVIET TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS SUMMARY: -- DEPARTMENT IS IN PROCESS OF DRAWING UP AGENDA FOR COMING TALKS IN HELSINKI. WOULD APPREC  
**TAGS:** PARM, PCAT, UR, US  
**To:** MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ffbad1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014